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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,385	04/25/2002	Silvia Buervenich	1103326-0677	1420

7470 7590 12/14/2006

WHITE & CASE LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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NEW YORK, NY 10036

EXAMINER

QIAN, CELINE X

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1636

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,385

Applicant(s)

BUERVENICH ET AL.

Examiner

Celine X. Qian Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 24-37 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 24-37 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20, 24-37 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-11, 33 and 34, drawn to an isolated Nurr1 gene including one or more mutation or a fragment thereof, vector and host cell comprises said gene or fragment.

Group II, claim(s) 12-15, drawn to a protein or a peptide encoded by a gene or fragment of Nurr1.

Group III, claims 16 and 17, drawn to a method of screening for pharmaceutical substance by using a nucleic acid or a peptide of Nurr1 mutant or fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutical substance identified.

Group IV, claims 18 and 25, drawn to an antibody raised against a protein encoded by a mutant Nurr1 gene, and a pharmaceutical composition comprising said antibody.

Group V, claims 19 and 20, drawn to a transgenic non human animal comprising a mutant Nurr1 gene or fragment.

Group VI, claims 24 and 36, drawn to a method of treating a psychotic condition by administering to a host an effective amount of pharmaceutical composition that is screened by Nurr1 nucleic acid or peptide.

Group VII, claims 26 and 27, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of a mutation in exon 3 or Nurr1 gene in a biological sample.

Group VIII, claim 28, drawn to a kit comprising reagents for amplification, enzymes for cleavage.

Group IX, claims 29-31, drawn to a method of treating or preventing schizophrenia by correct a mutation in exon 3 or the Nurr1 gene.

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Group X, claims 35 and 37, drawn to a method for the treatment of a psychotic condition by administering to the patient an antibody raise against protein encoded by mutant Nurr1 gene or fragment thereof.

PCT Rule 13.2 requires that unity of invention exists only when the shared same or corresponding technical feature is a contribution over the prior art. The inventions listed as Groups I-X do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature. The “special technical feature” of Group I is a mutant Nurr1 gene (with specific mutation recited) and functional fragment or variant thereof, which is shown by Castillo et al (Gene Expression, 1998, see abstract). Although the mutant disclosed by Castillo does not recites the specific mutation, however, the claim is directed also to variants of the mutant Nurr1 gene. The specification does not describe what constitutes such variants, thus it does not distinguish said variants over what is disclosed in prior art, such as the mutant disclosed by Castillo et al. Therefore, the special technical feature of Group I does not make a contribution over the prior art. As such, this technical feature cannot link the invention as a whole to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The invention of the remaining groups each has a unique technical feature not shared by the other groups. Therefore, the unity of invention does not exist.

Additionally, each group named above is subject to further restriction. Each group detailed above reads on mutant(s) of Nurr1 gene or protein. Each mutation, or combination of mutations, is patentably distinct because they are distinct sequences that each has their own special technical feature defined by its chemical structure. Applicant must further elect a single gene or a specific combination of genes. This is NOT an election of species. Each molecule of a

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mutant Nurr1 gene or protein is chemically and structurally distinct from another mutant, thus do not share the same special technical feature with one another.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Celine X. Qian Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0777. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Remy Yucel Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0781. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Celine X Qian Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1636

CELINE QIAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

